



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Office of Campaign & Political Finance

One Ashburton Place, Boston 02108

727-8352

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

August 6, 1985

AO-1985-12

Michael R. Pizziferri, Esquire
Vice Chairman
Plymouth County Democratic League
54 Devonshire Street
Boston, MA 02109

Dear Mr. Pizziferri:

This is in response to your recent request for an advisory opinion concerning the application of G.L. c. 55 to activities contemplated by the Plymouth County Democratic League Political Action Committee. Your specific question is, "Whereas the League has several Scholarship Funds used to assist worthy young people who wish to pursue an education, would it be proper and legal to accept corporate checks if, said checks are placed in the Scholarship Funds Account and, would be solely and exclusively used for said Scholarships?" For the reasons set forth below, the campaign finance law would not permit your committee to engage in this activity.

Section 8 of Chapter 55 provides, in relevant part

"...no business corporation incorporated under the laws of or doing business in the commonwealth and no officer or agent acting in behalf of any corporation mentioned in this section, shall directly or indirectly give, pay, expend or contribute, or promise to give, pay, expend or contribute, any money or other valuable thing for the purpose of aiding, promoting or preventing the nomination or election of any person to public office, or aiding, promoting or antagonizing the interest of any political party,...No person or persons, no political committee, and no person acting under the authority of a political committee, or on its behalf, shall solicit or receive from such corporation or such holders of stock any gift, payment, expenditure, contribution or promise to give, pay expend or contribute for any such purpose.

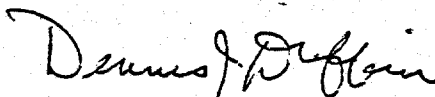
Therefore, your organization which is organized to further the interests of the Democratic party in Plymouth County cannot solicit or accept corporate checks. As long as any scholarship fund is being handled through your political committee these prohibited contributions cannot be solicited or

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accepted. Depositing these checks into a separate account cannot change that prohibition, since the corporate funds are still being solicited and received by a political committee.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Duffin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

Dennis J. Duffin
Director

DJD/rep